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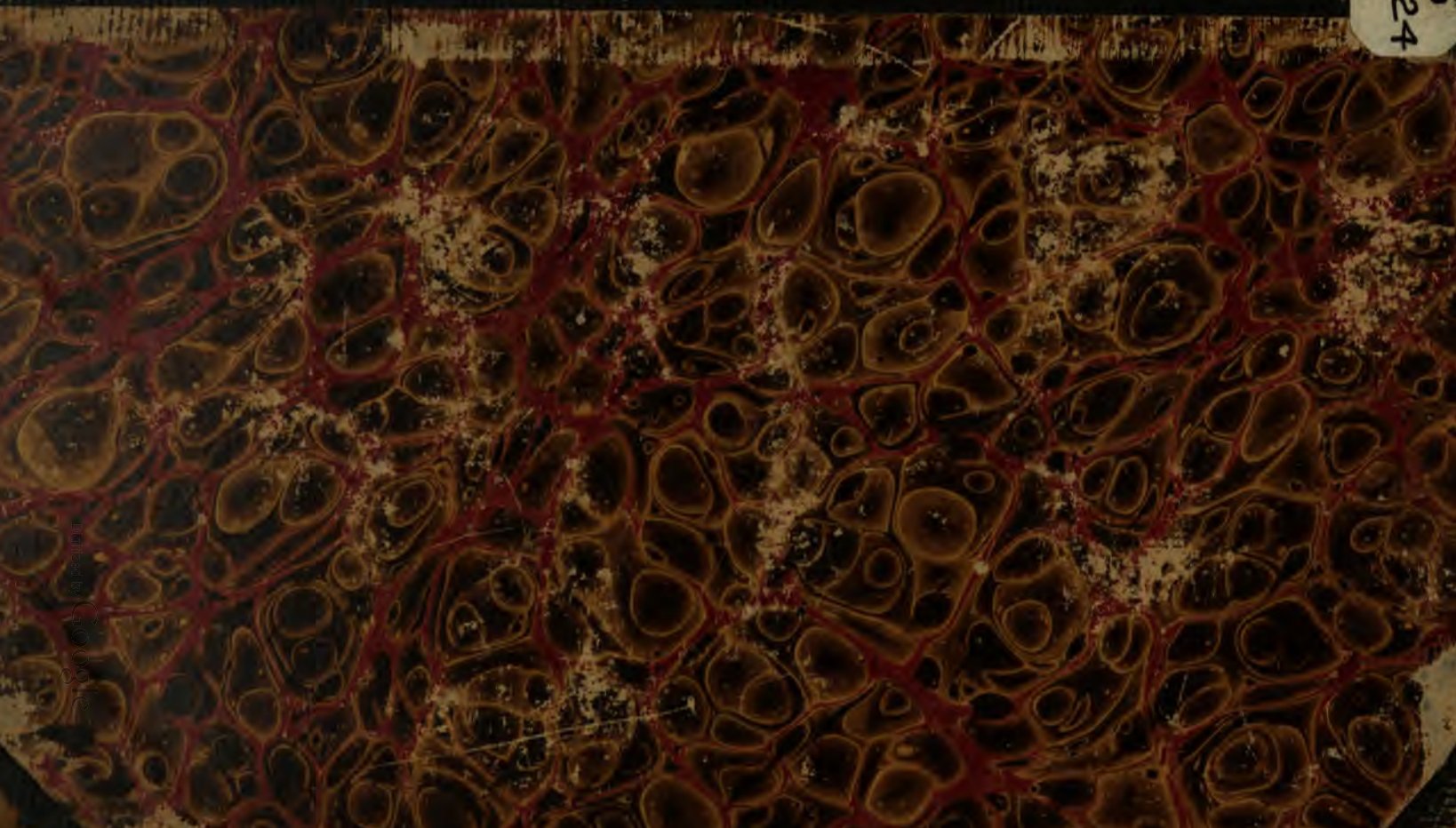

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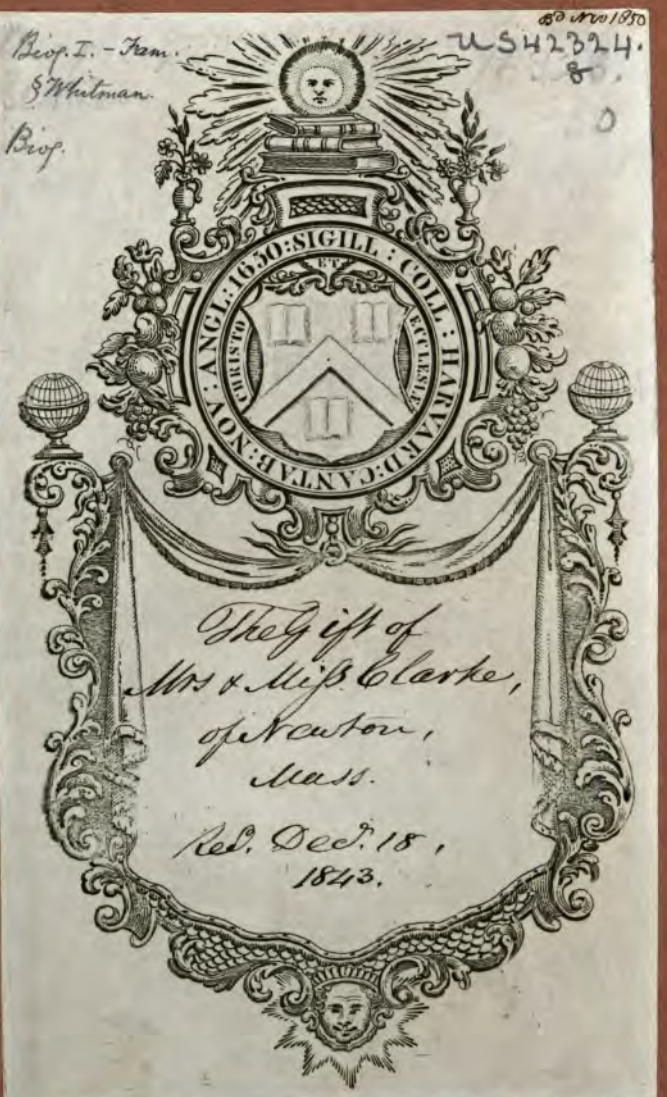

The Gift of
Mrs & Miss Clarke,
of Newton,
Mass.
Rec'd. Dec'r. 18,
1843.

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MEMOIR

OF

JOHN WHITMAN

AND HIS

DESCENDANTS.

BY EZEKIEL WHITMAN.

PORTLAND:
Printed by CHARLES DAY & Co.
1832.

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Rec'd Dec 18, 1843
The Gift of Wm & Clark Clarke,
of St Louis

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PREFACE.

THE following sketches are the result of examinations and enquiries made, from time to time, as opportunities occurred for the purpose. They are designed to gratify such of the posterity of JOHN WHITMAN as have any degree of curiosity leading them to an enquiry after their origin. Such curiosity seems to be natural, and, at the same time, indicative of a respectful regard to those but for whom we should not have existed. If so fortunate as to find them worthy and respectable the emotion excited is agreeable; and the mind delights to dwell in contemplation upon the incidents of their lives. Biography is at all times pleasing, and the source of valuable instruction. How much more so when the subject is a relative or an immediate ancestor.

The posterity of JOHN WHITMAN, who by way of distinction in these sketches, will often be denominated the Ancestor, will seldom find occasion to blush upon looking back upon the past lives of those from whom they have derived their origin. Fortunate indeed, may the generations now in being esteem themselves, if they can be sure to bequeath to their posterity an equal sourse of felicitation.

A speculation of this kind may, by many be deemed unprofitable. Such, however, are but superficial observers. No virtuously disposed mind can look back upon a long line of truly venerable ancestors without feeling his motive to a virtuous life strengthened. He can scarcely help feeling that it is not for him to be the first to bring disgrace upon his lineage. It will moreover lead him to reflect that his posterity also will be looking back, and comparing his life with that of his progenitors. And who in such case can fail to feel as a father in the presence of his offspring? And that sad indeed would it be to find them crimsoned with shame at witnessing in him a mortifying exemplar.

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The following sketches are confined principally to the four first generations, including the common ancestor. Under each member of the fourth generation, however, will be found a genealogical statement of his posterity, for one or more generations further. Many errors will doubtless, be discovered, especially as to the later generations. Those now in being are so numerous, and so much scattered, that full and distinct information is not easy to be obtained concerning them. As it respects the female branches, it has not been practicable to trace their descendants in any instance to any considerable extent.

The numbers placed over the names denote the generation from the common ancestor, he being considered as the first. Those of the third and fourth generations, are arranged according to the seniority of the second generation. For instance—the descendants from the Ancestor's son Thomas stand first in each succeeding generation ; and so on with regard to his succeeding brothers and sisters, as far as the same can be ascertained.

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MEMOIR.

JOHN WHITMAN, one of the early settlers of the town of Weymouth, in the State of Massachusetts, is the Ancestor, if not of all, yet of nearly all of the name of Whitman, as well as of an equal number, at least, bearing other names, in this country. He came from England, but from what particular part of it cannot be ascertained. He may have originated from Holt, in the county of Norfolk. The name of Whiteman has existed there. In the list of those copied into Winthrop's Journal, who were admitted freemen, the name of the above John is spelled with an *e*, as are those of Holt. Governor Winthrop and his company came principally from the vicinity, and, probably, some of them, from the town of Holt. And John came over, if not at the same time, yet not many years after, and attached himself to the same company, and, it may be presumed, was allured thither by his neighbors and friends, who either came with, or had preceded him a few years. The *e* may have been omitted by him, as he and his posterity have ever written their names without it.

There was, however, a John Whitman, mentioned by Fox, in his Martyrology, who was of Rye, near Dover, and, as it would seem, much of an enthusiast. He left his family at Rye in 1572, abruptly, and crossed over to Ostend, and there demeaning himself fanatically, and offensively to the Roman Catholics, of that place, was apprehended, and consigned to the flames, in which he perished without repining, and in seeming exultation. He was forty-nine years of age, and left a large family at Rye. It is possible that our Ancestor, who was

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born near the commencement of the succeeding century, may have been grandson of the martyr.

Our Ancestor must have arrived in this country some time, and, probably, some years, prior to December 1638, when, as appears by Winthrop's Journal, he was made free, viz. admitted to the rights and privileges of a citizen. This was not usually admissible until after a probationary residence of some time—and never until after admission as a member of some established church. He, probably, settled at Weymouth,* twelve miles south of Boston, soon after his arrival, but at what precise period cannot be ascertained. He was by the Governor and assistants, appointed an ensign there in 1645, which was, probably, the first military appointment in that town. In the same year he was, by the same authority, with two others, appointed "To end small controversies" there. What authority was exercised under the latter commission is not precisely known, but, probably, not very dissimilar to that which was subsequently, expected of justices of the peace. He was also deacon of the church there, probably, from its first establishment, until his death, which was on Nov. 13, 1692.

He must have lived to a very advanced age, probably but little, if any, short of ninety years. This supposition is strengthened by the fact, that the youngest of his four sons,

*The town of Weymouth lies on the south side of a navigable stream, called Fore River, which separates it from Braintree. By the means of its packets, it has ever had an intimate connexion with Boston. The first attempt at a settlement there, was in 1622; at which time a company from England had been sent out for the purpose under the patronage of a mercantile gentleman by the name of Weston. This attempt, owing to the hostility of the Indians, provoked by the improvidence and misdemeanors of the emigrants, proved unfortunate; and in 1628, was abandoned. In 1624, however, Capt. Robert Gorges, son of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, renewed the attempt; and a settlement was commenced, by emigrants, from Weymouth, in England, of good character, and maintained; and in 1638, the place was incorporated as a town.

Its local situation secured to it many advantages; being conveniently accessible from the sea; and enjoying every facility for being supplied with the products of the ocean, as well as of the land; and having the market of the metropolis close at hand.

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who was, probably, the youngest of nine children, was born in 1644. And his oldest son, Thomas, gave a deposition in 1679, by which it appears, that he was born in 1629. Some of the daughters may have been older, and they probably were, as it is scarcely to be presumed, that the nine children were all born in the course of fifteen years; especially, as their parents were separated for four years or more of the time, the family not having removed to this country till about 1641. The tradition, among the descendants of Thomas, has been, that he was about twelve years old when he was brought to this country. Thus it results, as probable, that the Ancestor was married not far from 1625; and, early marriages not being so common in England as in this country, it may be reasonable to suppose, that he was not married till twenty-three years of age. This would make him about ninety at his decease.

He had a brother, Zecheriah, who emigrated at the time he did, or soon after; and settled at Milford, in Conn. who is spoken of in the church records, and history of that town, as early as 1639. He was one of the ruling elders, and assisted at the ordination in that town, of the Rev. Roger Newton, by the imposition of hands. These, and some other circumstances concerning him, are noticed in Trumbull's History. When he died, is not known; but probably not until advanced in years. He left no issue. His estate in Milford he bequeathed to his nephew, the Rev. Zecheriah Whitman, son of our Ancestor. The farm which he occupied, is called the Whitman farm to this day; and is now in the occupation of a man by the name of Fenn.

There was a Robert Whitman also, who settled at Ipswich. Whether he was a brother, or but a relative, or neither, of the Ancestor, is not known. He came over about the same time and arrived at the same place, and settled in the same colony. He was illiterate while the others were well educated, which makes it doubtful if he were of the same family. Whether he

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left any issue cannot be, certainly, ascertained. There is no trace of any in the records, or in the recollection of the elderly people of Ipswich. And what he did with his estate is not known. There are conveyances on record to and from him, and his wife Susan. And in 1679, he was recognized as one of the proprietors of the common lands in Ipswich, and his name appears on the records there on various occasions to that period.

If he left any posterity, a Francis Whitman, a ship-wright, in Boston, who died in 1708, aged fifty years, may have been his son. He was not the son or grandson of our Ancestor. He left posterity in Boston, viz. Francis, Mary and Sarah. His widow Mary survived him; and, with her children, made a deed of land on Essex-street, in Boston, in 1718. Francis, the son, is called ship-wright also; and was without doubt the same who was in 1755, Captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in Boston. And Elizabeth Whitman, a widow, who made her will in Boston, in 1760, and who therein mentions a Francis Whitman as her son, was doubtless his widow. And the latter Francis was probably an only son, if not an only child. And it is not ascertained that he left any posterity. With him probably ended the descendants in the male line of the first Francis.

There was, at an early period, in Providence, R. I. a Valentine Whitman. He is mentioned, in some of the ancient documents as an interpreter to the Indians. What posterity he left, or what became of him, is not, certainly, known. The family by the name of Whitman, who have been for many years inhabitants of Providence, were not of his posterity. There are, however, in the town of Warwick, in R. I. a progeny, who may, and probably have, descended from him. They cannot be traced to any other origin. And the name of Valentine is said to be common among them. Whether he was a brother, or any connexion of our Ancestor, cannot be ascertained. He, probably, emigrated about the same time.

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John, Zecheriah, Robert and Valentine, are, it is believed, the only persons, of the name, that ever emigrated to New-England. They must have emigrated about the same time. These circumstances seem to render it probable that they were at least relatives. John and Zecheriah are known to have been brothers. It is most probable the others were but relatives to these, in a more remote degree. If they had been brothers, some trace of it would have been discoverable from what has been preserved from John and Zecheriah.

John Whitman owned and lived upon a farm, adjoining the north side of the highway, leading by the north side of the meeting-house of the north parish in Weymouth, and directly off against it, and extending to Weymouth river ; and his dwelling-house was situated near the centre of it. A part of the dwelling-house now remaining there, is said to be 150 years old. If so, the Ancestor must have resided in it a dozen years before his death. It was built in the old style, being a wooden house, two stories in front, facing the meeting house, and one in the rear, towards the river, and well preserved with paint.

The same farm, entire, has descended, by bequest, from father to son, until 1806, when the Ancestor's great grandson Abiah dying, without issue, leaving two widowed sisters, his heirs at law, one of them, a Mrs. Salisbury, purchased out the other, and has left it to her posterity ; one or more of whom now own and occupy it. Thus it still remains, and ever has remained, in unbroken succession, in its first possessor and his descendants, for nearly two centuries—an instance the like of which does not often occur.

Our Ancestor had four sons and five daughters. The sons were Thomas, John, Abiah and Zecheriah. The daughters were all married ; and their names as mentioned in their father's will, in 1685, and as then all living, were Sarah Jones, Mary Pratt, Elizabeth Green, Hannah French and Judith King. The will was proved in 1692. Abiah and Zecheriah were named executors. His homestead farm he gave to his son,

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Abiah, who lived with him. To his other children he confirms what he had before given them, probably by deed, consisting of out lands, &c.

He was undoubtedly a worthy man. His enterprise had brought him to a new country, probably, with but little, if any estate. He had, like most adventurers into a new country, his own fortune to achieve. The wilderness was alone open to him. An undaunted resolution must have urged him forward. His wife and several children, had been left in the country from which he had migrated—three thousand miles of ocean intervening between them. His only hope of again rejoining them, with emotions of unalloyed felicity, depended on his ability to carve from the wilderness, the sources of a comfortable subsistence. Affection on the one hand, and almost desperation on the other, stimulated his exertions. Joy and sadness must have alternated in his breast, as the idols of his affection, or the prospect before him, were uppermost in his mind. Years had elapsed before he could be allowed to realize that the day of anxiety and solicitude had passed away. In 1641, however, according to traditionary account, the measure of his felicity was made full, by the arrival of his family; and their establishment on the venerated spot, in the town of Weymouth, where he had unremittingly toiled in anticipation of this consummation of his fondest hopes. There he would seem to have been trebly blessed with competency, offspring and length of days—his competency the fruit of industry—his offspring the gift of heaven—and his length of days the reward of temperance and virtue.

In him his posterity have an example worthy of imitation. His virtues were not of the obtrusive kind—nor adapted to catch the popular admiration. He was, probably, incapable of exploits that would astonish the crowd; or, if he was, his ambition did not prompt him to the attempt. Many a man has been lauded to the skies for the tricks of a mere mountebank, without one single virtue to recommend him. Nine tenths of

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the heroes of all times are of this order. Such is human nature—and so prone to the marvellous—and to be dazzled with external show and pomp—and to be blinded by it—and utterly reckless of what is simple, amiable and really praiseworthy !

But our Ancestor, who feared God and hated covetousness—who did good continually all the days of a long life—who by honest industry, and without offence to any one, nurtured and educated a large family, and fitted them to become citizens worthy of any country—who was an exemplar to all around him—who braved and endured hardships and privations, which but few can realize—and finally, who fulfilled every civil, religious and moral obligation, must not be forgotten by his numerous posterity. His virtues should be their virtues, and his history should be deeply engraven on their minds. To reverence and venerate our ancestors, would seem to be but an instinct of nature. At any rate, it is a dictate of humanity, in every form of existence, from the most savage to the most civilized state—and so ordered for wise purposes. From veneration, imitation, if not emulation, will follow. Let us then cherish, and not endeavor to extinguish this propensity. ***Let us honor our progenitors that our days may be many in the land which the Lord our God hath given us.***

THOMAS[2] WHITMAN, the oldest son of the Ancestor, was about twelve years old when he came, with his mother, and some others of the children, about 1641, to settle in this country. From that time till of age, as may be presumed, he labored with his father, on the farm at Weymouth. In 1653, he was made free at Boston, being then twenty-four years of age, and a church member of course. In 1656, he married Abigail, daughter of Nicholas Byram, who probably came over with his father, as they were made free at the same time, and settled in the neighborhood of each other, in Weymouth. An intimacy, undoubtedly, subsisted between their families—and this match may be believed to have been mutually satisfactory.

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Thomas, at first, settled in Weymouth; but in 1662, sold his farm there, as did his father-in-law, Nicholas Byram, and they both removed to Bridgewater,* twelve miles south of Weymouth; where each settled himself upon a valuable tract of land, in the easterly part of the town, then in a state of nature. That selected by Thomas Whitman, was, what has since been called, the Whitman neck, containing about two hundred acres, and lying between the rivers Sautucket and Matfield, and coming to a point at their junction—a more eligible situation could not have been selected. There he resided fifty years, until his decease, in 1712, aged about eighty-three years. His first dwelling-house there, was in front of the one now occupied by Dea. John Whitman, and his son Alfred, and about half way between that and Sautucket river. His second dwelling, built after Philip's war, was by the road, nearly opposite the present barn of Dea. John Whitman.

The inhabitants of Bridgewater, were greatly harrassed by the Indians in the time of Philip's war; which commenced in 1675. It was then an interior town in the colony of Plymouth; and presented a young, unguarded settlement and frontier to the temptation of savage fury. The tradition is, that all the houses, not garrisoned or stockaded, and at a distance from the village, save one, were burnt. The one not burnt is said to have been Nicholas Byram's. This house was situated where Captain Isaac Whitman lately dwelt, and remote from the village. This was probably the place of refuge of Thomas Whitman and his family, and of the other neighbors, where their preparation for defence may have deterred the Indians from attempting an assault. There is a tradition, how-

*Bridgewater had, formerly, a great reputation for its agriculture. Its soil was superior to that of any other town in the Old Colony of Plymouth. Its meadow-lands were extensive and fertile. But, since the war of the revolution, and particularly of late, owing to its abundant supply of eligible mill-sites, the attention of its population has been turned to manufactures. Formerly it furnished the seaport towns with many of their agricultural products. At present, although the aggregate of its crops is increased, it does not supply its own consumption. Large supplies of bread-stuff, and other provisions, and even of lumber, are annually disposed of there from abroad. It was formerly a large township, and contained a population of over 5000; but has recently been divided into four towns, viz. Bridgewater and East, West and North-Bridgewater.

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ever, that this house was saved from favor to the owner, on account of some favor before received by the Indians, from him. But this may reasonably be doubted. It is a trait scarcely characteristic of Indian warfare.

In 1676, a party of twenty-one in number, of the inhabitants of Bridgewater, among whom were Nicholas Byram (probably junior) and John Whitman, son of Thomas, then eighteen years of age, performed a signal exploit. They were embodied as soldiers, and destined to join Capt. Church, who was expected from Plymouth, by way of Bridgewater, to pursue the Indians, towards Narraganset. But finding the enemy approaching, before Church could arrive, they sallied forth, drove the Indians back, and captured seventeen of them alive, with much of their plunder, without the loss of a life on their part. This event is alluded to by Hubbard and by Holmes. They speak of a violent tempest as coming to the aid of the soldiers, by producing consternation among the Indians. The party was afterwards joined by Church, with his company, who pursued the enemy with great slaughter, and the capture of many prisoners. After this it is probable, that the inhabitants of Bridgewater remained unmolested, although not without occasional alarms during the remainder of the war.

Thomas Whitman had three sons and four daughters. The sons were John, Ebenezer and Nicholas. The daughters were Susanna, wife of Benjamin Willis; Mary, wife of Seth Leach; Naomi, wife of Wm. Snow, and Hannah. His will, dated in 1711, names these daughters as then living; and, after reciting that his sons had been provided for by deeds of conveyance, makes them, after the decease of their mother, his residuary legatees. To his son Nicholas, he had conveyed his homestead; to his son Ebenezer, his lands in the south part of the town, with half of his common right, and to John, the other half of his common right. John was executor of this will. The widow of Thomas survived many years, and until very aged,

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and made a will disposing of considerable personal estate, and appointed Nicholas, her executor.

The character of Thomas, like that of his father, must have been enterprising and adventerous ; and his habits those of industry and frugality. The estate which he was enabled to parcel out among his children was valuable. His privations in early life were those of a settler in a wilderness country ; and his disasters from Indian depredation and barbarity were severely afflicting. Those in succeeding generations, who have enjoyed unmolested the fruits of his labors, privations and sufferings, have not, too often, recalled to mind, with filial reverence, the debt of gratitude due to such a progenitor.

Judge Mitchell, in his history of Bridgewater, written in 1818, has the following paragraph concerning him. " His descendants are very numerous in Bridgewater ; and more of them have received a liberal education than of any other name in town. Several of them have been clergymen. Nine of this name, and all of them of his posterity, are now in the profession of the law, in this Commonwealth (Massachusetts). The family is remarkable for longevity. Nicholas had four children who lived to be above eighty-five, two of them to ninety years. Four of this name are now living of the respective ages of 94, 87, 84 and 80." One of the latter is still living in the ninety-seventh year of his age ; and yet active and in good health. He might have added that a fifth child of Nicholas lived to be eighty years old. Eleven males bearing the name of Whitman, all descendants of Thomas, are known to the writer to have lived to the respective ages following, viz. 80, 81, 82, 83, 83, 83, 88, 90, 90, 95 and 96 years. And three females of his descendants are known to the writer to have lived to the respective ages of 92, 95 and 98 years. The instances of longevity have probably been as numerous in the female as in the male line.

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JOHN[2] WHITMAN, the second son of the Ancestor, was provided for, by his father, in what is now the south parish in Weymouth. He was settled there on a farm, by the side of a large pond, which, from him, took, and still retains the name of Whitman's pond. His first wife was Ruth Reed, who died without issue. His second wife was Abigail Hollis. By her he had Ruth in 1665, Mary in 1666, John in 1668, Ebenezer in 1670, and Samuel in 1673. At what time he died is not known. He was alive when his father made his will in 1685; and it is not improbable, that he lived to be aged, as his father was near ninety, and neither of his brothers died under eighty-two years of age. He left his estate to his sons, who were all settled in the same neighborhood. His eldest son, John, had his homestead.

ABIAH[2] WHITMAN, the third son of the Ancestor, married Mary Ford, and lived with his father, and had his homestead. His children were Elizabeth, born in 1673, married a Cooper; Lydia, born in 1678, married a Thomas; John, born in 1681; Zecheriah, born in 1683; Mary, born in 1685, married a Delay; Eleanor, born in 1688, married a Turner, and Abiah, born in 1690. His wife died in 1715; and he died in 1728. His age is not known. But he was older than his brother Zecheriah, who was born in 1644. He could therefore have been but little, if any, short of ninety.

He bequeathed his homestead to his son Abiah. To his sons John and Zecheriah he gave a tract of land in Easton, fifteen miles southwest of Weymouth, where they settled. His daughters, Mary, Eleanor and Elizabeth, were settled in Easton and vicinity, near their brothers. Lydia was settled in Braintree. All but Zecheriah left posterity.

The marriage of Lydia was attended with circumstances savoring a little of the romantic. While on a visit among her relatives in Boston, and while walking in the street, she caught

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the eye of a Captain Thomas, a respectable ship-master, then lately arrived from England. He was instantly captivated with her appearance, and followed her till he found where she lodged ; and immediately after, contrived to gain an introduction to the family there, and to her ; and soon after married her, and established himself, in very respectable style, near her father's in the town of Braintree, where he brought up a large and respectable family.

This Abiah was undoubtedly a man of industrious and steady habits. The family he brought up, and the property he bequeathed them, together with his great age, are evincive of this. He was moreover, selected by his father to be a stay and a staff to him in his old age ; and was one of the executors of his will—and inherited, it may be believed, no inconsiderable portion of his virtues. He had one daughter, at least, who lived to be ninety-two years of age. How old the others were is not known. Two of his sons lived to be about eighty.

2
ZECHERIAH WHITMAN, the youngest son of the Ancestor, was graduated at Cambridge in 1668—and settled in the ministry at Nantasket in 1670, and about the same time married Sarah Alcock, daughter of Doct. John Alcock of Roxbury, He was respected and venerated in his day. By a bequest from his uncle Zecheriah, before named, for whom he was probably named, and by an inheritance, in right of his wife, he became possessed of a competent estate, which rendered him independent, during his life, and enabled him to provide handsomely for his children.

His sons were Zecheriah, John and Samuel. His daughters were Joanna, who married a Hunt, and lived in Boston ; Sarah, who married a Goold, and lived on her father's homestead in Hull, and Mary, who married a Jacobs. In his will, made in 1725, he bequeathed his farm, received from his uncle Zecheriah, in Milford; to his son Zecheriah ; and a farm and

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tract of land in Stow, to his sons John and Samuel. And Samuel was executor. The town of Hull, formerly called Nantasket, was, in his day, a place of some importance, which casualties of late years, have tended to diminish. He died in 1726, aged eighty-two years.

2 ELIZABETH, one of the daughters of the Ancestor, in 1657, married Joseph Green. Her children were Joseph, born in 1658, John, in 1661, Elizabeth, in 1664, Mary, in 1667, and Zichri, in 1671.

2 HANNAH, an other of the daughters of the Ancestor, in 1660, married Stephen French. Her children were Mary, born in 1662, Stephen, in 1664, Samuel, in 1668, Hannah, in 1670, and Elizabeth, in 1674.

Of the children of the other three daughters no account has been obtained. Nor is it known how long any of the five daughters of the Ancestor lived. They were all living in 1685, when their father made his will. As their father and three, if not all, of their brothers lived to be over eighty-two years of age, it may be presumed that a majority of the daughters were, at least, equally aged. It is therefore not unreasonable to presume, that as many as six, at least, of the nine children, lived to this great age. How old their mother lived to be is not known. She is not mentioned in the will of her husband in 1685, and therefore was not then living. It may be reasonable to conclude that her name was Mary, as each of her children, of whose families we have any information, being six in number, had a daughter Mary.

3 JOHN WHITMAN, the oldest son of Thomas, and grandson of the Ancestor, married Mary Pratt of Weymouth, who may have been his cousin; and this is rendered probable, as his aunt Mary married a Pratt of Weymouth, and would have been

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likely to give to her daughter her own name. He lived near his grandfather Byram, in Bridgewater, on the east side of what is now called the Forge Pond. He was, at the age of eighteen, an active partizan soldier; on one occasion at least, in Philip's war, as before related. He died in 1727, in his seventieth year, leaving no children; and by will, gave his homestead to his nephew David, son of his brother Nicholas. His outlands, and other property he distributed among his other relatives. His brother Nicholas was executor. He was a man of industry and frugality, as is manifest by the property he was enabled to bequeath. Being appointed executor to his father's will in 1712, may be admitted as satisfactory proof that his standing in society was respectable.

3 EBENEZER WHITMAN, the second son of Thomas before named, was settled in the south of Bridgewater. He married Abigail Burnham; and his children were Abigail, born in 1702, Zecheriah, in 1704, Hannah, in 1709, and Ebenezer, in 1713. In 1713, he died, aged about forty years. His widow took administration of his estate, and was appointed guardian to the children. She afterwards married a Hobart of Hingham, with whom she lived on the farm at Bridgewater.

3 NICHOLAS WHITMAN, the third son of Thomas, before named, had his father's homestead, and lived with him; and for his first wife, married Sarah Vining of Weymouth. By her his children were Thomas, born in 1702, John, in 1704, David in 1709, Jonathan, in 1710, and Seth, in 1713. She then dying, he married Mary Cary. By her his children were Eleazer, born in 1716, and Benjamin, in 1719. His second wife then dying, he married Mary Conant, the great granddaughter of Roger Conant, of whom honorable mention is made in the early history of the country; by whom he had Josiah, born in 1724, Sarah, in 1726, Nicholas, in 1731, and Ebenezer,

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in 1736. He had five other children, principally by the last wife, who died in infancy.

He was a man of great vigor, industry and activity. His dwelling house was near Matfield river, a few rods west of the dwelling house, afterwards, built by his son Ebenezer, and lately occupied by Joseph Keen. He was born about the time of the breaking out of Philip's war ; in which his father's dwelling house, and the other dwellings in that part of the town, were, according to tradition, destroyed by the Indians. This was a period of great distress and alarm. The settlements were sparce and wide apart. To come to the aid of each other, of a sudden, was difficult, and attended with danger. And the progress of settlement was of course retarded ; and privations were multiplied. Schools could not be established ; and the children were but scantily furnished with the means of education. They were taught by their parents to read, but not, in many instances to write. Nicholas could doubtless read his bible—but if he could write at all it was with difficulty. But, possessing strong native powers, he was enabled to manage the common affairs of life to good advantage. Although his family was large, he increased his estate. He was a constant attendant upon public worship, although, for the greater part of his life, the place of meeting was three miles distant from him.

In his religious notions he partook, in some measure, of the spirit of the times ; and was, somewhat pertinacious. He could not readily yield his assent to what, by the then rising generation, were deemed improvements, either in doctrine or ceremony. Whatever he had witnessed in the conduct of his forefathers had, with him, the force of law. Accordingly it is related of him, that, having grown up while it was fashionable, owing probably to the open and unfinished state of the meeting house, in early times, for the men to put on their hats during sermon time, he could not, readily, brook the idea of an innovation even in this particular. This practice had existed during the

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whole of the ministry, (about fifty years) of the first settled minister. After which, his successor, a fashionable young man from the metropolis, who was able to persuade all, except Mr. Whitman, to lay aside the practice, and finding him contumacious, he delivered a discourse on the subject. But before he had finished, Mr. Whitman rose, and with great gravity, and possibly without intending a sarcasm, remarked, " That rather than offend a weak brother, he would pull off his hat ;" and accordingly did so, thereafter, as well during sermon as prayer time.

He had, before his decease, settled portions of his homestead upon his sons Thomas and John ; and his son David was amply provided for by the bequest of his uncle John, as beforementioned. Seth, Eleazer and Benjamin, were settled on his out-lands. His other children, after his decease, had, between them, the residue of his homestead. He had the rare felicity of having his eleven children all settled, and well settled, in the same town with himself, where they all spent their days in good reputation. Five of them lived to be of the ages respectively of 80, 86, 87, 90 and 94. The other six died at between 30 and 70 years of age. His posterity have been very numerous, and several hundreds of them are now living.

He came by his death, unfortunately, on the 6th of August, 1746 ; he being then seventy-one years of age. It happened, at this time, that his son, John, had some hay to get in, and he had come with a team to help him ; and was remarkable, always, for insisting on driving his own team, which happened, at that time, to be some what unruly. The cart being loaded, on the meadow, by the river, nearly fronting the present dwelling house of Dea. John Whitman, he drove it from thence up a sidelong bank, he being on the upper side, and the cattle going quick, and the stubble being dry and slippery, he sliped and fell, and, before he could recover himself, the cart wheel passed over his body ; and he expired in a few hours after.

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The above named Dea. John Whitman, who is his grandson, and now (1832) in the ninety-seventh-year of his age, was present; and has pointed out to the writer the spot where the accident happened.

But for this occurrence he might have attained to a great age. The vigor of his health and constitution gave promise of it; and his father and grandfather before him had lived to be very aged. The instances of longevity, in proportion to the numbers, were, certainly, more numerous then, than at present. An instance of intemperance or of idleness scarcely existed. The body was invigorated by labor, and the tone of the system was unimpared by indulgence in dissipation or sloth. Many of the diseases, of the present day, are of a new creation, having their origin in a change of habit, consequent upon the increase of wealth, and tending to shorten the period of human existence; and to enhance the sum of human misery. Yet this is denominated the age of improvement—and it may be so—but not in the vigor and manhood of the human system.

3
SUSANNA, the eldest daughter of Thomas Whitman, before named, married Benjamin Willis; and lived near Town River, on the road from the west to the south meeting-houses in Bridgewater. Her descendants have been numerous; and some of them in high repute. About twenty of them are known to have received a public education. Among the latter were the late Gen. David Cobb of Taunton, the late Rev. Caleb Gannet of Cambridge, and the late Beza Hayward, Esq. of Plymouth. She died at the age of ninety-eight years.

3
MARY, the second daughter of Thomas Whitman, married Seth Leach; and has left posterity. Caleb Leach, a great mechanical genius, and distinguished for his many ingenious

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inventions ; and who assisted Doct. Fobes in the construction of the orrery, which he presented to Brown University, is one of them.

3
NAOMI, the third daughter of Thomas Whitman, married Wm. Snow, and left posterity. She is however mentioned in her brother John's will, dated in 1827, as having deceased before that time.

3
HANNAH, the fourth daughter of Thomas Whitman, is supposed to have married Wm. Snow, after the decease of her sister Naomi ; but too late in life to have left posterity.

3
JOHN WHITMAN, son of John jr. and grandson of the Ancestor, had his father's homestead by Whitman's pond, in the south parish in Weymouth. His wife's name was Dorothy. By her he had Dorothy, born in 1704, Abigail, in 1707, John, in 1709, Matthew, in 1712, Sarah, in 1714, Mary, in 1716, and Mary, in 1721. His first wife dying in 1733, he married, Aug. 22, 1734, Christina Farrer ; at which time he was sixty-six years old. How long he lived after this is not known.

3
EBENEZER WHITMAN, son of John jun. and grandson of the Ancestor, married Deborah Richards, and was settled in the south parish in Weymouth, near his father ; and had children, viz. Daniel, born in 1706, Ann, in 1711, David, in 1713, and three others, viz. Silence, Sarah and Deborah. He made his will in 1732, he then being sixty-two years old. How long he lived after this is not known.

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SAMUEL[3] WHITMAN, brother of the next preceding, was also settled in the same parish with him. His wife was Mary Richards, sister of the wife of Ebenezer. He had one daughter, Ruth, born in 1710, and one son, Samuel, in 1717. The son, probably, died young, as nothing further is known of him. The daughter married Richard Porter, and has left posterity. He (Samuel) was deacon of the church for half a century or more.

He was born in 1673; and an old lady, now living in the old dwelling-house of the Ancestor, remembers, when a little girl, to have called at his house, with the female part of the family of the late Capt. Abiah Whitman, on their flight to Abington, in consequence of a rumor that the British, from Boston, were about to attempt a landing at Weymouth. She remarks, that she found him packing up papers, with a view, doubtless, to save them from British depredation—that he appeared very old—that his hair was as white as snow. This was probably in 1775, when, it would seem, that he was 102 years old. It may reasonably be supposed that he died not long after. The clergyman of the north parish in Weymouth, stated, in 1805, that he had been dead about thirty years; and that he was, when he died, about 100 years old. He is reputed to have had a large estate; and, no doubt, spent a long life in honest industry, and in the fervent worship of his Creator.

JOHN[3] WHITMAN, son of Abiah, and grandson of the Ancestor, was settled on land bequeathed to him by his father, in Easton, adjoining Bridgewater. He was twice married. By his first wife he had Rebecca, Terah and John; and by the second, Rebecca and Jacob. At the time of the birth of his last child, he could have been but little, if any, short of eighty. For this son Jacob, is now (1832) living, and probably under eighty years of age; and is but the great grandson of the An-

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cestor. There is, probably, no other descendants now living, of the Ancestor, so nearly related to him. This Jacob, and his sons, are the only males, bearing the name of Whitman, now living, who derive their descent from the first Abiah Whitman; the descendants from whose daughters are, doubtless, very numerous.

3 ZECHERIAH WHITMAN, the second son of the above named Abiah, was never married. He was settled on lands in Easton, which were bequeathed to him by his father, who, for some reason, not now known, by his will, put him under the tutelage of his brother John. When he died is not known.

3 ABIAH WHITMAN jun. brother of the preceding, had, by will, his father's homestead. Hir first wife was Ruth Pettie, with whom he lived twenty-five years, when she died without issue. He then married Sarah Reed, who was twenty-five years younger than himself. By her he had Abiah, in 1741, Sarah, in 1752, and Ruth, in 1755, and three others, who died young. He was a man of great regularity, industry and piety; and in much estimation among his fellow-citizens; and was employed in many of their town-offices; and for many years was deacon of the church. He added considerably to his patrimonial estate, and left it entire to his only son; his daughters being otherwise provided for. He died in his eightieth year.

3 ZECHERIAH WHITMAN, the eldest son of the Rev. Zecheriah Whitman of Nantasket, had, by bequest from his father, the farm in Milford, Conn. But it does not appear that he ever resided on it; nor can it be fully ascertained, at this day, where he did reside; or whether he left any posterity.

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There was however a Davis Whitman, styled shipwright, in Boston, who conveyed land there in 1733. And there was a Davis Whitman, styled cordwainer, who conveyed land there in 1736. Whether these were the same person, or whether they were father and son, is unascertained.

And there was, also, a Samuel Whitman, who made a will in Boston in 1768, in which he notices but one child, a daughter Eunice ; and he is said to have been a brother of Davis Whitman. These two, Davis and Samuel, it would seem, must have descended from the above named Zecheriah. There is no reason for supposing that they originated from any other person of the name. Davis Whitman, formerly of Boston, but now of Lancaster, Mass. is descended, without doubt, from the before named Davis Whitman ; who, with his sons, if any he has, are the only descendants in the male line from this branch of the name. If these were descended from Zecheriah, he probably lived in Boston.

3
JOHN WHITMAN, brother of the preceding, had, by bequest, the one half of his father's lands in Stow, where he settled. He married a widow Graves of Charleston. His children were Thomas, Jacob, Zecheriah, John and Charles. He was a magistrate, and deacon of the church ; and died advanced in years. Further particulars concerning him have not been obtained. He died aug: 3. 1772 æt. 85.

3
SAMUEL WHITMAN, the third son of the Rev. Zecheriah, was graduated at Cambridge University, in 1696, and is said to have been some years a tutor there. In 1706, he was ordained, in the ministry, over the church and congregation at Farmington, in Conn. then one of the largest towns in that State. He had, by bequest, the one half of his father's lands

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in Stow, and was executor of his will. He married Mary Stoddard, daughter of the Rev. Solomon Stoddard of Northampton. His children were Elnathan, Solomon, John, Samuel, Eunice, Sarah and Elizabeth. He was in high repute as a clergyman; and much beloved by the people under his charge. And his felicity was consummated by the settlement of his children in the vicinity in which he lived; and by seeing them highly respectable and prosperous. He died in 1751, aged about seventy-five years.

THOMAS WHITMAN, son of Nicholas, in 1727, married Jemima Alden, daughter of Isaac Alden, and had children, viz. Simeon, in 1728, Peter, in 1730, Benjamin, in 1732, Nathan, in 1736, Jemima, in 1737, Amos in 1738, and William, in 1740. He had by deed the northeasterly part of his father's homestead, on which there was a fine mill site, on which mills were erected, called Whitman's Mills. He was a man of considerable education, and much employed in town and parochial affairs; and was, for many years, deacon of the church. He was not very laborious, but diligent, regular and frugal. He died in 1788, æt. 86.

His estate had been principally apportioned before his decease. Peter, William and Amos had his homestead and mills. His son Simeon married Martha Snow, and had Isaac, Simeon, Thomas, Joseph, Martha, Silvia and Huldah; and died aged 83 in 1811. His children have all left posterity, excepting Simeon.

Peter was twice married, and had six daughters, and one son, Asa, now of Walpole, Mass. and died æt. 70.

Benjamin married a Latham, and has left one son, Benjamin, of Franconia, N. H. and several daughters. He died æt. 70.

Nathan married an Allen, and had Seth A. and Nathan, and two daughters; and died æt. 48.

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Amos married Anna Washburn, and had two sons, Zenas of Minot, Me. and Amos deceased, and several daughters ; and died æt. 53.

William, the youngest son, has left two sons, William of Pomfret, Vt. and Oakes of Turner, Me. and several daughters.

Jemima, the daughter, married David Keith of Bridgewater, and has left posterity.

JOHN[4] WHITMAN, the second son of Nicholas, had a portion of his father's estate, including the part on which his grandfather Thomas had his dwelling house. By his first wife, Mary Richards, he had no children. By a second wife, Elizabeth Cary, he had Samuel, in 1730, and John, in 1735. By his third wife, the widow Hannah Snow, he had Daniel, in 1744, and Ezra, in 1747. He had a fourth wife, who was the widow of Joseph Mitchell of Hingham, by whom he had no children. He died in 1792, in the 88th year of his age. He was regular in his habits and pious, but not very laborious ; sufficiently so, however, to maintain his family and keep his patrimony together until, in his old age, his son John took charge of it, and of the maintenance of him and his wife.

His son Samuel married Elizabeth Bonney, and had, by her, David of Lyme, N. H. in 1762, Samuel of Cumington, in 1764, Abel of Frankfort, Me. in 1766, Beza of Cumington ; and by a second wife, Freedom of Cumington, and three daughters. He died æt. 95 at Cumington.

John, the second son, still lives on the patrimonial estate, in the 97th year of his age. His first wife was Lydia Snow. By her he had Lydia, in 1765, Elizabeth, in 1767, and James of Belchertown, Mass. in 1769, After which she died, and he married his cousin, Abigail Whitman, daughter of Josiah Whitman, by whom he had Catherine in 1775, deceased, Bathsheba, in 1777, Josiah of Wellfleet, in 1779, Alfred of

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East Bridgewater, in 1781, Obadiah of New-Gloucester, in 1783, Nathaniel of Billerica, in 1785, Hosea of Waltham in 1788, John, in 1790, deceased, Abigail, in 1793, deceased, Bernard of Waltham, in 1796, Jason of Saco, in 1799. Of these, Lydia married Ebenezer Whitman of Winsor, Mass. and Elizabeth, married a Trowbridge of Middleboro.' Mass.

Daniel, the third son, left three children, viz. Daniel, living in N. Y. State, John, living in Belchertown, and Mary.

Ezra, the fourth son, married Rhoda Snow, and had Ezra of Winthrop, in 1761, Hannah of East Bridgewater, in 1771, David S. of Livermore in 1775, Calvin, in 1777, deceased, and Rhoda, in 1779.

DAVID[4] WHITMAN, was the third son of Nicholas, and was handsomely provided for by his uncle John, who bequeathed him his homestead. He married Susanna Hayward, and had one son, Isaiah, who was drowned in New-Haven Bay, while bathing, he being then an undergraduate in Yale College. He died æt. 80.

JONATHAN[4] WHITMAN, the fourth son of Nicholas, died Oct. 31, 1768, æt. 58, leaving two children, viz. Jonathan, born in 1751, and Elizabeth, in 1752. His wife was Elizabeth Hersey. His son Jonathan died in 1777, æt. 26, leaving one daughter.

SETH[4] WHITMAN, the fifth son of Nicholas, married Ruth Reed, and had Stephen, in 1745, Sarah, in 1751, and Seth in 1754. He died in 1768, aged about 55. His son Stephen married Matilda Orr, and had Stephen, Matilda, Independence and Mary, and died young. His son Seth also died young, leaving one son Seth of Pembroke, Mass.

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ELEAZER WHITMAN, the sixth son of Nicholas, married Abigail Alden, and had Mary, in 1751, Joshua in 1753, Eleazer, in 1755, Ephraim, in 1758, and Abigail, in 1763. He lived in the east of Bridgewater, adjoining Abington, where his son Eleazer now lives; and was respectable as a husbandman; and by industry and regularity, acquired a handsome estate. In his religious notions, he was rigidly calvinistic—was blameless in his life and conversation—and for many years deacon of the church. He died æt. 90. His daughter Mary married a Porter. His son Joshua died young, leaving one son, Joshua of Turner. His son Eleazer lives on his father's homestead, and has children, viz. Eleazer, Daniel, Asa and Hannah. His son Ephraim of Abington, has one son, Jared, living in Abington, and several daughters.

BENJAMIN WHITMAN, the seventh son of Nicholas, died without issue.

JOSIAH, the eighth son of Nicholas, married Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Ezekiel Smith of Hingham, whose wife was Dinah May, daughter of Samuel May of Roxbury. He (Josiah) had his father's dwelling house, and the southwesterly part of his homestead. His children were Levi, born July 4, 1748, Lemuel, April 29th, 1750, Josiah, Dec. 16th, 1753, and Abigail, Dec. 5th, 1751. He was extensively engaged in the manufacture of shoes. For some years before his death he had it in contemplation to remove to Cornwall, in Conn. and had purchased a farm there; on which, he had, occasionally, spent some time, in preparing it for the residence of his family. But a pulmonary consumption terminated his career before he was thirty years of age. He was well educated for the times in which he lived, and bid fair to become a man of respectability.

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His son Levi graduated at Harvard University; and settled in the ministry at Wellfleet; and married Sarah Thomas, daughter of Capt. Ichabod Thomas of Pembroke, Mass. and had children, viz. Levi of Norway, Jan. 16, 1789, Sarah, Feb. 24, 1790, Charles of Waterford, Sept. 16, 1791, Josiah of Portland, Jan. 28, 1793, Ruth, June 21, 1794, Eliza S. Oct. 19, 1797, Hope D. Feb. 3, 1799. He is now in his eighty-fourth year.

Lemuel, the second son, settled at Kinderhook, N. Y. His children are, Simeon of St. Armans, Cana. Josiah of Angelica, N. Y. William of the State of Ohio, Levi of Austerliz, N. Y. John, Betsey, Mary, Joanna and Sarah. He died æt. 71.

Josiah, the third son, married Sarah Sturtevant, daughter of Caleb Sturtevant of Halifax, Mass. His children were, Ezekiel of Portland, born March 9, 1776, and Betsey, born Jan. 7, 1778. He died æt. 24.

SARAH, the only daughter of ~~Josiah~~ Nicholas sen. married Eleazer Alden of the south of Bridgewater. Her children were Martha, born in 1752, Mary, in 1754, Abigail, in 1756, Sarah, in 1759, and Eleazer, in 1767. She died æt. 95. Her son Eleazer, occupies his father's homestead; and has several children. Her daughters were all married, and have had children as is supposed.

NICHOLAS WHITMAN, the ninth son of Nicholas senr. married Mary House, and had Isaiah of Windsor, Mass. in 1760, Elijah of Thomson, Conn. in 1762, Mary, in 1765, and Eunice in 1769. He had a portion of his father's homestead, on which he spent the principal part of his days. Isaiah, has deceased, leaving one son, Isaiah, and several daughters. Elijah's children are Elijah, Alden, Josiah and George W. and four daughters. Nicholas jun. died in 1803, æt. 72, having led an inoffensive life.

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EBENEZER WHITMAN, the tenth son of Nicholas senior, married Abigail Freelove; and had Ebenezer, in 1765, Jephthah, in 1767, and Abigail, in 1763. He died of a consumption, in 1786, æt. 50, much lamented. He was amiable; and a man of intelligence and virtue. His son, Ebenezer of Cummington, married Lydia, daughter of the present Dea. John Whitman, and has children. Jephthah, married a Tinkham of Middleborough, Mass. and lives in Windsor, Mass. and has a large family of sons.

ZECHERIAH WHITMAN, son of Ebenezer, and grandson of Thomas senr. married Eleanor Bennet. His children were, Samuel, born in 1734, Abiah, in 1735, Zecheriah, in 1738, Eleanor, in 1739, Benjamin, in 1741, Abigail, in 1743, Ruth, in 1746, Jonah, in 1749, and Ebenezer, in 1752. Of these, Abiah, Benjamin and Abigail, died unmarried. Samuel died, leaving one daughter, wife of Oliver Allen. Zecheriah, married Abigail Kilborn of Litchfield, Conn. and had Kilborn of Pembroke, Benjamin, of Boston, and two daughters, Cassandra and Angelina. Of these, the latter has deceased, leaving children. The others have large families. Eleanor married a Chamberlain, and has a number of children, and is now in the 93d year of her age. Ruth married and had children. Jonah was a physician in Barnstable; and has left a number of children, one of whom, Josiah, is a physician in Cincinnati. Ebenezer died at Oakham, Mass. æt. 75.

EBENEZER WHITMAN, son of Ebenezer, and grandson of Thomas senr. married, and had Noah, Hannah and Lydia. He became the owner of his father's homestead, partly by purchase, and partly by inheritance; and spent his life, over ninety years, upon it. It was a valuable estate; and he greatly added to it by the means of constant labor, regularity and economy. His son Noah had his homestead; and added considerably to it;

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and died æt. 82 ; leaving a number of Children, viz. Lydia, Freelove, Sarah, Noah, Ebenezer of Tamworth, Vt. and Daniel ; the latter of whom has deceased, leaving children. Noah, is a physician in West-Bridgewater.

4
JOHN WHITMAN, son of John, and grandson of John jun. and great grandson of the Ancestor, had a portion of his father's homestead, by Whitman's pond, in Weymouth. But after the decease of his father, he removed to Abington. He had three sons, viz. John, Samuel and Levi ; and perhaps some daughters. His sons John and Samuel, are said to have removed to Maine ; but to what part has not been certainly ascertained. There was a John Whitman, who had his house burnt, about eight years since, in the neighborhood of Norridgewock. Whether he was one of these is not known. Levi, was a soldier in the war of the revolution ; and has, since, received a pension ; and resides in Bedford, N. H. and has had several children ; one of whom, Samuel, is said to be an inhabitant of Maine.

4
MATTHEW WHITMAN, brother of the next preceding, lived on his father's homestead by the pond. How long he lived, is not known. His wife was Martha Humphry ; and his children were Joseph, Hannah, Polley and Jesse. His son Joseph, was lost at sea, when young. Hannah married Thomas Copeland of Braintree, and has left a numerous posterity. Jesse, married and lived in Lynn ; and had Joseph, Jesse, Sarah and Mary. Joseph, the eldest son, settled in Weymouth. Jesse is said to have removed to Maine.

4
DANIEL WHITMAN, son of Ebenezer, and grandson of John jr. had two sons, Daniel and Levi, who, with their father, are said to have removed to Vt. ; but there is reason to believe, that this is a mistake, and that they in fact removed to Canaan,

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Me. An old Daniel Whitman, has resided, and left posterity there.

4 DAVID WHITMAN, brother of the next preceding, married, and had Sarah, in 1737, Hannah, in 1740, Charity, in 1742, Samuel, in 1744, David, in 1749, and Nehemiah, in 1753. He lived in Weymouth, where his son David, now 82 years of age, who married Olive Webb, still lives; and whose children are David, Ebenezer F. Thomas, and four daughters. Samuel, the eldest son, was graduated at Cambridge University in 1775; and settled in the ministry at Goshen, Mass. and died there in 1826, æt. 80. His wife was the daughter of Ezekiel Cheever, Esq. of Boston. And his children were Samuel, Ezekiel Cheever, Grace, deceased, David, John, deceased, Sally, Mary, Ephraim, deceased, Stephen W. deceased, and Abby. Nehemiah, the third son of David senr. lives in Groton, Mass. and has four daughters, all married, but no son.

4 JOHN WHITMAN, son of John, and grandson of Abiah, and his brother Terah, married sisters, by the name of Willis, and lived in West-Bridgewater. A daughter of one of them married Thomson Baxter of Quincy. Whether she is living or not has not been ascertained. They have left no other posterity.

4 JACOB WHITMAN, the youngest brother of the next preceding, lives in Buckfield, Me. He married Abigail Packard. His children are Luther, Jacob, Joseph, Calvin, Joshua, Rebecca, Abigail and Winchester; the most of whom have families in the vicinity of their father. He is but little, if any, short of eighty years of age—and is but the great grandson of the Ancestor. His father was born in 1681, and was nearly eighty years of age when he (Jacob) was born.

4 ABIAH WHITMAN, son of Abiah jun. married Abigail Giles. He had, by will, his father's homestead, and lived on it till

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1806, when he died, æt. 66, leaving no issue. He sustained a good reputation, and left a handsome estate to his two sisters, his heirs at law.

4 SARAH, sister of the next preceding, married Ambroze Salisbury of Braintree, in 1774; and had eleven children; five of whom died young, viz. Sarah, Abigail, Stephen, Lydia and Ruth. Six are now living, viz. William, Ambrose, Mary, Abiah W. Sarah R. and Stephen M. Their mother died Feb. 8, 1823, æt. 71.

4 RUTH, sister of the next preceding, married Jesse Reed of Abington, and had Ruth, Sarah, Alonzo and Jesse. Her first husband dying, she married a Johnson, and lived in Cumington, Vt. By him she had several children, and died in 1806, æt. 51.

4 THOMAS WHITMAN, son of John, and grandson of the Rev. Zecheriah, was a physician, but died unmarried.

4 JACOB WHITMAN, brother of the next preceding, settled in Providence, R. I.—had one son, Jacob, and one daughter, who married a Dorrance. The son and daughter have both deceased, and have left posterity. A daughter of the son's married Professor Keely of Waterville College. Jacob senr. was a man of considerable property, which he left, principally, to his son, and was highly esteemed as a citizen; as was also his son. To what age either of them lived has not been ascertained; but the former attained to a good old age; and the latter was somewhat advanced in years at the time of his decease. Their real estate, in Providence, was at the corner, formerly called the Turk's head. There are none of the name of Whitman in Providence at this time. It is said, that one of

Jacob Jr. has one son George living in Alabama and also one daughter marr.d to Col.o Pickett att.o gen.l of that State and one [illegible] to Rub.o S. Ridike marr.d to

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Jacob junr's. sons removed to Tennessee ; and that the others have deceased.

ZECHERIAH WHITMAN, brother of the next preceding, settled on his father's farm in Stow, Mass. and had five sons and ten daughters ; who are said to have been all married, and to have had children. The sons were Edward, Daniel, John, Thomas and Zecheriah. Of these, Edward settled in Boston, and left posterity there ; but died on a farm, which he owned in Henniker, N. H. to which place he had removed sometime before his death. And Zecheriah settled in Westminster, Ms. and has left a posterity of from seventy-five to one hundred, there. Thomas remained in Stow. Daniel and John settled in Henniker, N. H. as did also several of the daughters.

JOHN WHITMAN, brother of the preceding Thomas, Jacob and Zecheriah, married the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Foster of Stafford, Conn. And settled, at first, in Stow ; and remained there till 1761 ; when he removed, with his numerous family, to Annapolis (Nova Scotia); to which place he was, doubtless, allured by the proclamations, issued by the Governor of that Province, inviting settlers from New-England to remove there, and become the owners of the fine farms, from which the French settlers had then recently been removed.* He carried

*The general opinion, prevalent in New England, is not so favorable to Nova Scotia, as a more intimate acquaintance with its geography and resources, would inculcate. Whoever would be more correctly informed on this subject, has only to consult Halliburton's history, a work of great merit.

The town of Annapolis, sometimes called Annapolis Royal, stands upon a river of the same name, extending about seventy miles into the country ; and about eight or ten miles from its mouth ; where there is a harbor not very difficult of access, in which a fleet of ships, of any burthen, may ride at anchor in perfect safety. The land bordering upon the river to its source, for productiveness, is not surpassed by any tract, of equal extent, in any of the Atlantic States. On this tract the French commenced a settlement in 1605, which met with many disasterous interruptions. In 1755 the French population, scattered on each bank of the river, amounted to about 7000 ; Annapolis being their capital. The Province, many years before, had been ceded to England. The population, however, being Roman

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with him considerable property ; and laid the foundation there for a handsome establishment ; but was cut off in 1763, æt. 45; and left his widow, with a family of eleven children, all under fifteen years of age. This was, to them, truly an afflicting dispensation—situated as they were, in a strange land, and remote from all their connexions. The widow, however, would seem to have been of a superior cast of intellect, and of no ordinary share of resolution. She kept her family together there, and nurtured and educated her children; and lived to see nine of them, two having died young, eligibly and comfortably established in the world ; and, for many years, to enjoy the remuneration of her toil, perplexity and solicitude in their dutiful gratitude, love and veneration. She died in 1812, æt. 85. Her husband was respectable ; and deacon of the church before his removal ; and, had he lived, might have been a prominent character in Nova Scotia. His children were Dorcas, born in 1749, Daniel, in 1750, Hannah, in 1751, Edward, in 1752, John, in 1753, Salome, in 1755, Elnathan, in 1756, Jacob, in 1757, Isaac, in 1758, Abraham, in 1761, and Mary, in 1763. Two of these died young. The rest have married, and had large families. Six of them, viz. John, Daniel, Jacob, Abraham, Hannah and Salome, are still living in Nova Scotia ; and John is a well educated, and respectable magistrate at Annapolis. His children are Elnathan, James, Alfred, Letitia, Mariah and Dorinda ; all married except the last.

Catholics, could not be induced to take the oath of allegiance to a protestant king. They nevertheless had entered into an engagement not to bear arms against the English in any future war. Hence they acquired the denomination of 'French Neutrals.' This engagement they did not, in good faith, observe. In the wars between Great Britain and France, they were often found aiding, and, in some instances, actually joined with the Indian allies of France in their predatory incursions. This was particularly the case in the year 1755 ; when, for these offences, an order was issued that they should be seized, transported and scattered among the other English colonies. This order was executed. About one thousand of them were sent to Massachusetts, and the rest to the other colonies.

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CHARLES WHITMAN, the fourth son of John, and grandson of the Rev. Zechariah, was a physician, and settled in Stow, and lived to be aged. He left a number of daughters, viz. Catharine Wetherbee, Dorcas Whitney, Jane Todd, Eunice Russell, and Lois, and one son, Charles, a physician, still living in Stow.

4

ELNATHAN WHITMAN, son of the Rev. Samuel, of Farmington, was graduated at Yale College; and, for some time, was one of the tutors there. He afterwards settled in the ministry at Hartford, Conn. and married Abigail, daughter of Col. Nathaniel Stanley, then Treasurer of the Colony of Connecticut. His children were Elizabeth, Mary, Abigail and William.

Of these, Elizabeth was remarkable for her genius, her accomplishments, and her endearing qualities; but she was, nevertheless, singularly unfortunate; and her fate afflictingly disasterous. She died, and was buried at Danverse, Mass. On her grave stone is the following inscription.

"This humble stone, in memory of Elizabeth Whitman, is inscribed by her weeping friends, to whom she endeared herself by uncommon tenderness and affection. Endowed with superior genius and acquirements, she was still more distinguished by humility and benevolence. Let candor throw a vail over her frailties; for great was her charity to others. She sustained the last painful scene far from every friend; and exhibited an example of calm resignation. Her departure was on the twenty fifth day of July, A. D. 1788, in the 37th year of her age; and the tears of strangers watered her grave."*

*Among her papers after her decease, was found a fragment, in her hand writing, of which the following is a copy, in which is depicted the sorrows of a broken heart.

"Thy presents to some happier lover send,
Content thyself to be Lucinda's friend.
The soft expression of thy gay design
Ill suits the sadness of a heart like mine;

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To this town, to avoid the insupportable anguish of witnessing the overwhelming grief of her relatives and friends, her last efforts of vital energy, exhausted by wounded sensibility, had enabled her to flee.

A novel, called 'The Coquette, or Memoirs of Eliza Wharton,' has been published, having allusion to some of the incidents in her career; but, of course, not with a very scrupulous regard to the truth. Much of it, as usual in such cases, had its origin in the fancy of the writer.

A heart like mine for ever doomed to prove
Each tender woe, but not one joy of love.
First from my arms a dying lover torn;
In early life, it was my fate to mourn.
A father next, by fate's relentless doom,
With heart-felt woe, I followed to the tomb.
Now all was lost; no friends remained to guide
My erring step, or calm life's boisterous tide.
Again the admiring youths around me bowed;
And one I singled from the sighing crowd.
Well skilled he was in every winning art,
To warm the fancy, or to touch the heart.
Why must my pen the noble praise deny,
Which virtue, worth, and honor *should* supply?
O youth beloved! What pangs my breast has borne,
To find thee false, ungrateful and forsworn!
A shade and darkness o'er my prospect spreads
The damps of night, and death's eternal shades;
The scorpion's sting, by disappointment brought,
And all the horrors of despairing thought.
Sad as they are, I might, perhaps, endure,
And bear with patience what admits no cure.
But here my bosom is to madness moved;
I suffer by the wrongs of him I loved.
O! had I died by pitying Heaven's decree;
Nor proved so black, so base a mind in thee!
But vain the wish. My heart was doomed to prove
Each torturing pang; but not one joy of love.
Wouldst thou again fallacious prospects spread,
And woo me from the confines of the dead?
The pleasing scenes that charmed me once retrace?
Gay scenes of rapture, and extatic bliss!
How did my heart embrace the dear deceit!
And fondly cherish the deluding cheat!
Delusive hope, and wishes sadly vain,
Unless to sharpen disappointment's pain."

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Abigail, the second daughter, died unmarried. Mary, the third daughter, married a Doct. Skinner ; but has no children. William was graduated at Yale College ; and has been an apothecary ; and is now clerk of the city court of Hartford. He has been twice married. By his first wife he had William Elnathan; who was educated at Middleborough College, Vt. and is, at present, a preceptor in an academy at Philadelphia.

The Rev. Elnathan died at Hartford, about 1777, æt. 67. He was a highly respectable and useful clergyman. It is greatly to be lamented, that, some years after his decease, his mansion house, with all its contents, consisting, among other things, of a valuable collection of books and pamphlets, carefully collected and preserved by him, many of which, at this day, are rarely to be met with, was consumed by fire.

Solomon Whitman, brother of the Rev. Elnathan, settled in Farmington, Conn. He was remarkable for native strength of mind, and the amenity of his manners ; and was well educated ; and of inflexible integrity. He was appointed, in very early life, a magistrate, under the colonial government ; and was honored, by the inhabitants of the town, with offices, of every grade, within their power to bestow ; until old age rendered them burdensome to him. He was moreover singularly fortunate in the possession of influence and power to allay the spirit of litigation and contention among his neighbors ; and to end their controversies by amicable adjustment ; of which he was most sure to be selected as their arbiter. And this continued till a short time before his decease, which was in Sept. 1803, he then being in the ninety-fourth year of his age. He had three wives. viz. Susanna Cole, the widow Ruth Strong, and the widow Ruth Wadsworth. His children were Solomon, Samuel, Elnathan and Lemuel, and two daughters. Of these, Solomon, Elnathan and one daughter settled in Farmington,

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and have left posterity there. Samuel had a commission in the sea-service, in the Revolutionary War ; and has not been heard of since its close. Lemuel died young at Havana. One of the sons of Solomon jun. graduated at Yale College, and has been in the profession of the law, and a judge, and representative to Congress, and lives in Farmington, as do several others of his brothers and sisters.

JOHN[4] WHITMAN, brother of Elnathan and Solomon, settled in West Hartford, Conn. He had two wives. The first was Abigail Pantry, by whom his children were Abigail, John, Lucy, Sarah, Samuel and Eleanor. By his last wife, Hannah Wells, he had no children. Of these children, who were all settled in West Hartford, Abigail married and had one daughter, and died ; John married Ann Skinner, and had children, viz. James, Timothy, John P. Ann, Lucy, Eunice and Ruth ; Lucy married Charles Seymore, and has left posterity ; Sarah married Thomas Hooker, and has children ; Samuel married Abigail Abbot, and has left eight children ; and Eleanor married Ebenezer Faxon, and has had nine children. Their father lived to be between eighty and ninety years of age ; and acquired considerable estate, and provided well for his children. He was a man of piety and virtue, and deacon of the church.

SAMUEL[4] WHITMAN, brother of Elnathan, Solomon and John, was graduated at Yale College, and settled in Farmington. He was a physician of eminence ; and died a bachelor, not far advanced in years.

EUNICE[4], the eldest daughter of the Rev. Samuel, of Farmington, married a Col. Strong, of that town ; and had two sons and four daughters. The sons died young. Two

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only of the daughters were married, viz. one to the Rev. Timothy Pitkin, of Farmington, and the successor of his grandfather in the ministry there, being his second wife, and the other to the Rev. Joshua Perry, of New Haven.

4
SARAH, the second daughter of the Rev. Samuel, married the Rev. Mr. Trumbull, of Westbury, and had one son, and three daughters. The son was the famous author of McFingal, and other humorous pieces ; and was eminent in the profession of the law, and as Judge of the Superior Court, in Connecticut. He died lately at Detroit, over eighty years of age, in the family of the Hon. Mr. Woodbridge, who married his daughter, with whom he had spent a few years, at the close of his long life, solaced and sustained by kind offices ; the promptings of the affection of an endeared and dutiful child. His oldest sister, Sarah, married a Doct. Perkins, of Hartford, and has left a numerous offspring. His other sister, Elizabeth, married the Rev. Mr. Langdon, of Danbury.

4
ELIZABETH, the third daughter of the Rev. Samuel, married the Rev. Mr. Strong, of New Marlborough, and died without issue.

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RECAPITULATION OF THE GENEALOGY.

1

JOHN WHITMAN's children were,

Thomas, John, Abiah, Zechariah, Sarah Jones, Mary Pratt, Elizabeth Green, Hannah French and Judith King.

2

THOMAS WHITMAN's were,

John, Nicholas, Ebenezer, Susanna Willis, Mary Leach, Naomi Snow and Hannah Snow.

2

John Whitman's were,

Ruth, Mary, John, Ebenezer and Samuel.

2

Abiah Whitman's were,

John, Zechariah, Abiah, Elizabeth Cooper, Lydia Thomas, Mary Delay and Eleanor Turner.

2

Zechariah Whitman's were,

Zechariah, John, Samuel. Joanna Hunt, Sarah Goold and Mary Jacobs.

2

Elizabeth Green's were,

Joseph, John, Elizabeth, Mary and Zichri.

2

Hannah French's were,

Mary, Stephen, Samuel, Hannah and Elizabeth.

3

John Whitman, son of Thomas, died without issue.

3

Nicholas Whitman's were,

Thomas, John, David, Jonathan, Seth, Eleazer, Benjamin, Josiah, Sarah, Nicholas and Ebenezer.

3

Ebenezer Whitman's were,

Abigail, Zechariah, Hannah and Ebenezer.

3

John Whitman (son of John jun)'s. were,

Dorothy Lincoln, Abigail, John, Matthew and Mary.

3

Ebenezer Whitman, (son of John jun)'s. were,

Daniel, Ann, David, Silence, Deborah and Sarah.

3

Samuel Whitman, (son of John jun's.) were,

Ruth and Samuel.

3

John Whitman, (son of Abiah)'s were,

John, Terah, Sarah, Rebecca and Jacob.

3

Zechariah Whitman, (son of Abiah) left no issue.

3

Abiah Whitman jr's were,

Abiah, Sarah and Ruth.

3

John Whitman, (son of Zechariah)'s were,

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Thomas, Jacob, Zechariah, John and Charles.

3
Zechariah Whitman, (son of Zechariah senr)'s were
Samuel and Davis.

3
Samuel Whitman (son of Zechariah senr)'s. were,
Elnathan, Solomon, John, Samuel, Eunice Strong, Sarah Trumbull and Elizabeth Strong.

4
Thomas Whitman jun's. were,
Simeon, Peter, Benjamin, Jemima Keith, Nathan, Amos and William.

4
John Whitman senr. (son of Nicholas)'s were,
Samuel, John, Daniel and Ezra.

4
David Whitman, (son of Nicholas senr)'s. was Isaiah.

4
Jonathan Whitman (son of Nicholas senr)'s were
Jonathan and Elizabeth Briggs.

4
Seth Whitman (son of Nicholas senr)'s were,
Stephen, Sarah and Seth.

4
Eleazer Whitman (son of Nicholas senr')s. were
Mary, Joshua, Eleazer, Ephraim and Abigail.

4
Benjamin Whitman (son of Nicholas senr.) had no issue.

4
Josiah Whitman (son of Nicholas senr)'s. were,
Levi, Lemuel, Josiah and Abigail.

4
Nicholas Whitman jr's. were
Isaiah, Elijah, Mary Chamberlain and Eunice Thomson.

4
Ebenezer Whitman (son of Nicholas)'s were,
Ebenezer, Jephthah and Abigail.

4
Sarah Alden, (daughter of Nicholas senr)'s were
Eleazer, Martha, Mary, Abigail, Sarah and Hannah.

4
Zechariah Whitman, (son of Ebenezer and grandson of Thomas senr)'s were,
Samuel, Abiah, Zechariah, Eleanor Chamberlain, Ruth Washburn, Jonah, Ebenezer, Benjamin and Abigail.

4
Ebenezer Whitman, (son of Ebenezer and grandson of Thomas)'s were,
Noah, Hannah Dean, and Lydia Dean.

4
John Whitman, (son of John and grandson of John jr')s. were
Tabitha, Lydia, Dorothy, John, Levi and Samuel.

4
Matthew Whitman (son of John and grandson of John jr)'s were
Joseph, Jesse, Hannah and Mary Copeland.

4
Daniel Whitman (son of Ebenezer 1st)'s were,
Daniel and Levi.

4
David Whitman (son of Ebenezer 1st)'s were
Sarah, Hannah, Charity, Samuel, David and Nehemiah.

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4
Jacob Whitman (son of John and grandson of Abiah)'s were
Luther, Jacob, Joseph, Calvin, Joshua, Rebecca, Abigail and Winchester.

4
Jacob Whitman (son of John and grandson of Zechariah 1st)'s were,
Jacob and —— Dorrence.

4
Zechariah Whitman (son of John and grandson of Zechariah 1st)'s were,
Edward, Zechariah, Daniel, John, Thomas and ten daughters.

4
John Whitman (son of John and grandson of Zechariah 1st)'s were,
Dorcas, Daniel, Hannah, Edward, John, Salome, Elnathan, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham and Mercy.

4
Elnathan Whitman (son of Samuel and grandson of Zecheriah 1st)'s were,
Elizabeth, Abigail, Mary and William.

4
Solomon Whitman (brother of Elnathan) were,
Solomon, Elnathan, Lemuel, Samuel and Chloe Porter.

4
John Whitman (son of Samuel, and grand-son of Zechariah)'s were,
Abigail, John, Lucy, Sarah, Samuel and Eleanor.

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